

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2098

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6538

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OTRA, AS

SUBJ: SPEAKING DATES IN AUSTRALIA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 5641; (B) CANBERRA 5858;
(C) CANBERRA 6413; (D) STATE 220680;
(E) USIA 22482

1. REFTEL (C) REQUESTED USIA AND DEPARTMENT'S HELP IN LOCATING SPEAKERS FOR SIR ROBERT MENZIES LECTURE AT UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA IN MARCH-MAY 1974 PERIOD. REFTEL (E) INDICATED AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT WERE REVIEWING POSSIBILITIES.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT IN THIS SEARCH AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT ALSO HAVE IN MIND THE FACT THAT THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING PROMINENT AMERICAN SPEAKER OR SPEAKERS FOR TWO OTHER HIGHLY PRESTIGIOUS SPEAKING DATES IN AUSTRALIA IN MARCH. THESE ARE A PRINCIPAL SPEAKER FOR THE INFLUENTIAL AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN SYDNEY ON MARCH 14 AS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL (A) AND FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN AUSTRALIA IN SYDNEY ON MARCH 29 AS DESCRIBED IN REFTELS (A) AND (B).

3. EMBASSY HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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WILLIS ARMSTRONG WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE EITHER OR BOTH OF

THE AMCHAM AND INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS SPEECHES BUT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY REFTEL (D) THAT THIS WILL NOT BE FEASIBLE.

4. BOTH THE AMCHAM AND THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS OFFER EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL AUDIENCES AND PRESTIGE PLATFORMS FOR A SUITABLE AMERICAN SPEAKER. HE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEBODY WITH GOOD CREDENTIALS IN THE FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND/OR INDUSTRIAL FIELDS.

5. IF THE SEARCH FOR A SPEAKER FOR THE SIR ROBERT MENZIES LECTURE SHOULD UNCOVER A PERSON WHOSE QUALIFICATIONS WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DELIVER ALL THREE ADDRESSES WITHIN THE PERIOD MARCH 14-MARCH 27 THIS WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY FORTUNATE OUTCOME FOR ALL CONCERNED.

6. AT THE SAME TIME THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SIR ROBERT MENZIES LECTURE ARE LESS RESTRICTIVE THAN FOR THE TWO SYDNEY ECONOMIC ADDRESSES AND FOR THIS REASON IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COMBINE ALL THREE OCCASIONS. IN THAT EVENT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF THE AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT WOULD AS A SEPARATE MATTER REVIEW AND ADVISE US OF POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FOR THE MARCH 14 AND/OR MARCH 27 DATES IN SYDNEY.

7. IN ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL (C). (1) MENZIES LECTURE DATE COULD BE ARRANGED AT CONVENIENCE OF SPEAKER; (2) COULD USE SPEAKER FOR FIVE PROGRAM DAYS FOR SYDNEY (INST. OF DIRECTORS OR ELSEWHERE) AND MELBOURNE OR CANBERRA IN ADDITION PERTH.
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